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presents

Akumu no Sumu Ie - Ghost Hunt

Chapter 15

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いなだ詩穂 原作／小野不由美

悪霊の棲家

ゴーストハント

YES, WE SHALL DO THAT. GOOD NIGHT.

WE'LL BE AT THE BASE, SO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, PLEASE RAISE YOUR VOICES.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SINCE TANIYAMA-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE CHECKING THAT THE 2ND FLOOR DOORS AND SHUTTERS HAVE BEEN LOCKED FOR US, PLEASE BE AT EASE AND GET SOME REST.

ANOMALIES SUDDENLY INCREASE, AND THE AGAWA FAMILY WHO ARE NERVOUS...

CURRENTLY TRYING TO PURIFY THE SPIRITS.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

SLIDES

IN WHAT WAY ARE EXORCISM AND PURIFICATION DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER?

EXORCISM IS THE EXPELLING OF SPIRITS WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

PURIFICATION SEEMS TO BE DISTINGUISHED IN THAT IT CLEANSES SPIRITS, BUT——

INDEED, I WONDER WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS.

YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

VAGUE JAPANESE PSYCHIC TERMS ARE NUMEROUS AND DIFFICULT.

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT ON EARTH IS A GHOST, REALLY?

—MAY I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU DON'T COMPLETELY UNDER-STAND IT?

AREN'T I CLOSER TO UNDER-STANDING IT?

You "don't know"?

I'D GO HOME AND WRITE THESES.

IF I KNEW THAT, I WOULDN'T BE HERE.

WE CAN'T RECORD VALID DATA WHEN THOSE GUYS START TO MOVE SINCE THE MACHINES IMMEDIATELY STOP WORK-ING.

I WONDER IF IT IS BE-CAUSE THE SPIRITS ARE NOT IN GOOD TERMS WITH ELECTRONIC MEASURING INSTRU-MENTS.

HOW SO?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOUR UNDER-STANDING OF THAT PHE-NOMENON ALONE IS INSUFFI-CIENT?

BUT YOU PROBABLY HAVE A LOT OF EXPERI-ENCE WITH THIS SORT OF THING HAP-PENING, RIGHT?

AT LEAST, THAT'S MY MENTALITY.

IT'S MEANINGLESS IF I CAN'T OBTAIN THE RECORDED DATA AS EVIDENCE.

IT'S A WASTE OF BREATH TO SHARE PERSONAL EXPERI-ENCES, HIROTA-SAN.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT I'VE ACTUALLY BECOME A SUPPORT-ER.

ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN KNOWING SUCH A THING?

HOWEVER, ARE YOU GUIDED BY ANY...HY-POTHESIS FROM EXPERI-ENCE?

AMONG THE SCIENCES DEVELOPED, WHY DOES THIS ALONE HAVE BOTH ITS CAUSES AND LAWS UNDIS-COVERED?

THEN, WHY HASN'T THAT EVER BEEN DISCOVERED YET?

IT SHOULD HAVE A PHYSICAL COMPONENT.

...IF THERE IS SOME-THING THERE,

IF THERE IS SOMETHING, WON'T YOU TELL ME?

ARE THERE REALLY SPIRITS?

ARE THEY HUMAN SOULS?

MY COWORKER ALWAYS SAYS, "IT'S BECAUSE SCIENCE CANNOT EXPLAIN EVERYTHING."

CERTAINLY, THERE ARE MANY MATTERS THAT EVEN MODERN SCIENCE CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

AND YET IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND PSYCHIC PHENOMENA.

IS THERE A SOUL IN SYNTHETIC FIBERS?

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IF CLOTHES ARE MADE OF NATURAL FIBERS, IS THERE A SOUL IN THEM?

OR DO YOU KNOW WHY SPIRITS ARE WEARING CLOTHES?

WHAT?

DATA.

...YOU HAVE A POINT.

BUT IN THAT CASE, WHAT ARE THEY...?

...IS THAT SO?

THEN IT WON'T BE STRANGE EVEN IF SPIRITS ARE WEARING CLOTHES.

IF THOSE CONTENTS ARE PRE-SERVED AFTER DEATH AND WE CAN READ THE MINDS OF OTHERS,

THE CONTENTS OF A PER-SON'S MIND IS A MEETING OF ELECTRICAL SIGNALS AFTER ALL.

WHEN A PERSON RECALLS HIS OWN EXPERI-ENCES,

THERE ARE MANY THINGS HE REMEM-BERS THROUGH THE POINT OF VIEW OF AN OUTSIDER, AS THOUGH THEY WERE FILMED BY A CAM-ERA.

FOR WHEN HE RECALLS A SCENE WHERE HE WAS FAC-ING AND CON-VERSING WITH SOMEONE,

HE DOESN'T REMEMBER THE LOOK OF THAT PERSON IN FRONT OF HIM, BUT HE REMEMBERS THE MANNER IN WHICH HE AND THAT PERSON WERE FACING EACH OTHER.

HUMANS PROCESS INFORMATION LIKE THAT.

DECODE THAT BY HIS OWN EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE, AND REPLAY IT IN HIS MIND.

THAT SOMEBODY WILL TRANSMIT AND STORE THAT INFORMATION INTO HIS OWN MEMORY,

THAT'S WHY WHEN SOMEBODY HAS RETRIEVED THAT PERSON'S DATA, DETAILS ABOUT THE PERSON HIMSELF ARE INCLUDED AS WELL.

...TRUE.

ARIA

THEN, HOW ABOUT POSSESSION?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN SPIRITS.

OR THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF ANCIENT SPIRITS.

THIS SORT OF PHENOMENON MUST BE DECODED WITHIN THE MIND.

MOREOVER, THAT'S WHY SPIRITS FROM THE *NARA PERIOD TEND TO WEAR THE GARMENTS FROM THE *EDO PERIOD.

IS THAT THE REASON WHY GHOSTS ARE ALSO WEARING CLOTHES?

ALTHOUGH YOU SEE THE SAME SPIRITS, TESTIMONIES FROM PEOPLE OFTEN CLASH.

*Nara period (710–794 CE); Edo period (1603–1868 CE)

*The kanji used is the same as the kanji for "suggestion" in "hypnotic suggestion."

WHAT ABOUT EXOR-CISM?

OR YOU WILL BE GIVEN A *SUGGES-TION.

THOUGHTS, RETRIEVED FROM THAT OTHER BEING, INTRACERE-BRALLY SEARED INTO YOU,

YOU WILL HAVE...

IF YOU STRONGLY SUPPORT THE OPIN-IONS A SPIRIT HAS,

BUT IT WOULD BE ABOUT DEMOLISH-ING THE PLACES WHERE THOSE THOUGHTS ARE.

WHAT WE REFER TO AS EXORCISM, THEN, IS NOT ABOUT MAKING FIXED THOUGHTS DISAPPEAR,

FOR EXAMPLE, ASSUMING THAT POWERFUL THOUGHTS ARE BURNED INTO CERTAIN PLACES OF ONE'S MEMORY,

—HOW YOU STORE SIMPLE INFOR-MATION IS A PROBLEM.

BUT THAT MYSTERIOUS TELEPATHY DOES NOT GIVE SUPPORT TO THE EXISTENCE OF SOULS AT ALL.

DEBATING THIS, THERE ARE ALSO SCHOLARS WHO SAY THAT THE SO-CALLED PSYCHIC VISION IS A TELEPATHIC PHENOM-ENON THAT INVOLVES RECEPTION OF THOUGHTS FROM THE DECEASED,

THEY APPEAR TO BE A MERE COLLECTION OF INFOR-MATION.

FROM EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, IT SEEMS LIKE SPIRITS ARE NOT PHYSICAL ENTITIES.

FURTHERMORE, THERE IS ALSO THE POLTER-GEIST PHENOM-ENON.

IS THERE DATA ABOUT HOW ONE LOWERS TEMPERATURES AND MOVES OBJECTS?

EVEN IF CERTAIN PIECES OF EVIDENCE ABOUT SPIRITS BEING MERE DATA ARE CONSISTENT, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE CAN EX-PLAIN ALL PSYCHIC PHENOMENA.

INSTEAD, THERE IS A LOT MORE THAT CAN'T BE EX-PLAINED.

—EVEN A HYPOTH-ESIS WILL MAKE NO SENSE.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, HUH.

ABSO-LUTELY.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER HOW PLEASANT IT WOULD BE IF I WERE ON THE *OPPOSING SIDE.

HAHAA.

*skeptics

...SORRY. I JUST THOUGHT YOU SEEM VERY FED UP WITH IT——

WHAT? IS IT A BLACKOUT?

HIROTA-SAN?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THAT'S NOT POS-SIBLE.

NO IDEA...

I WONDER IF IT MIGHT BE THE BREAKER.

DARKENS

THAT'S TRUE.

...NO, SINCE THE STREET LIGHTS ARE STILL ON.

WHAT'S WRONG? IS THERE A POWER OUTAGE?

OOPS

wind blows

WHAT...?

BREATHES

MAI?

THE BACKUP POWER SOURCE IS ALSO DEAD.

WHAT THE HECK—

SOME-
THING?

A SCARY
PERSON.

SOME-
THING...

IS
COMING.

SHIVERS

...KOSORI
IS COMING.

HOW—

...DAMN
IT.

...AT MIDNIGHT OF OCT. 10.

ON THE EARLY MORNING OF THE 11TH, TO BE EXACT.

WHAT DAY DID YOU SAY THE INCIDENT HAPPENED?

WHAT DAY IS IT RIGHT NOW?

WHAT?

DON'T TELL ME—

IT'S ALREADY... THE 11TH.

THE 10TH—

ISN'T IT NATURALLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE MORNING OF THE 11TH APPROACHES?

WHY DID THE FOUR SPIRITS BECOME ACTIVE?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S MY MISTAKE.

FOR ME TO NOT REALIZE THIS SORT OF THING...

THE SAME CAN BE APPLIED TO SEKIGUCHI.

ON THE EVENING OF THE 10TH, HE THOUGHT THAT HE HAD TO END EVERYTHING.

BECAUSE SEKIGUCHI WAS AT HIS WIT'S END,

THE KAWANABE FAMILY WILL STRONGLY GIVE A WARNING WHEN THE DAY OF THE DAUGHTER'S RETURN APPROACHES.

EH?

IT'S HIROTA-SAN'S WORDS.

THERE WAS A TRIGGER!

BUT...

PEOPLE SHOULD DIE IN THIS HOUSE EVERY YEAR THEN.

INSTEAD, THEY ARE PROBABLY IN A STATE OF UNCERTAINTY RIGHT NOW.

MIDORI-SAN HAD SAID SHE WOULDN'T SUE, BUT IT WASN'T GUARANTEED THAT THE SASAKURAS WOULD BELIEVE THAT.

"SHALL WE PRESS CHARGES?"

IT WOULD BE STRANGE, AT LEAST, IF THEY WEREN'T TRIGGERED TO ACT.

BOTH CONDI-TIONS ARE PRESENT.

AND OCT. 10:

THE FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT BE SUED...

ARIA

TO ACT——

THIS BLACKOUT WAS CAUSED BY THE SASAKURAS. WE CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE ELSE WHO WOULD DO IT BESIDES THEM.

WHY...?

OUT OF RANGE

THE PO-LICE——

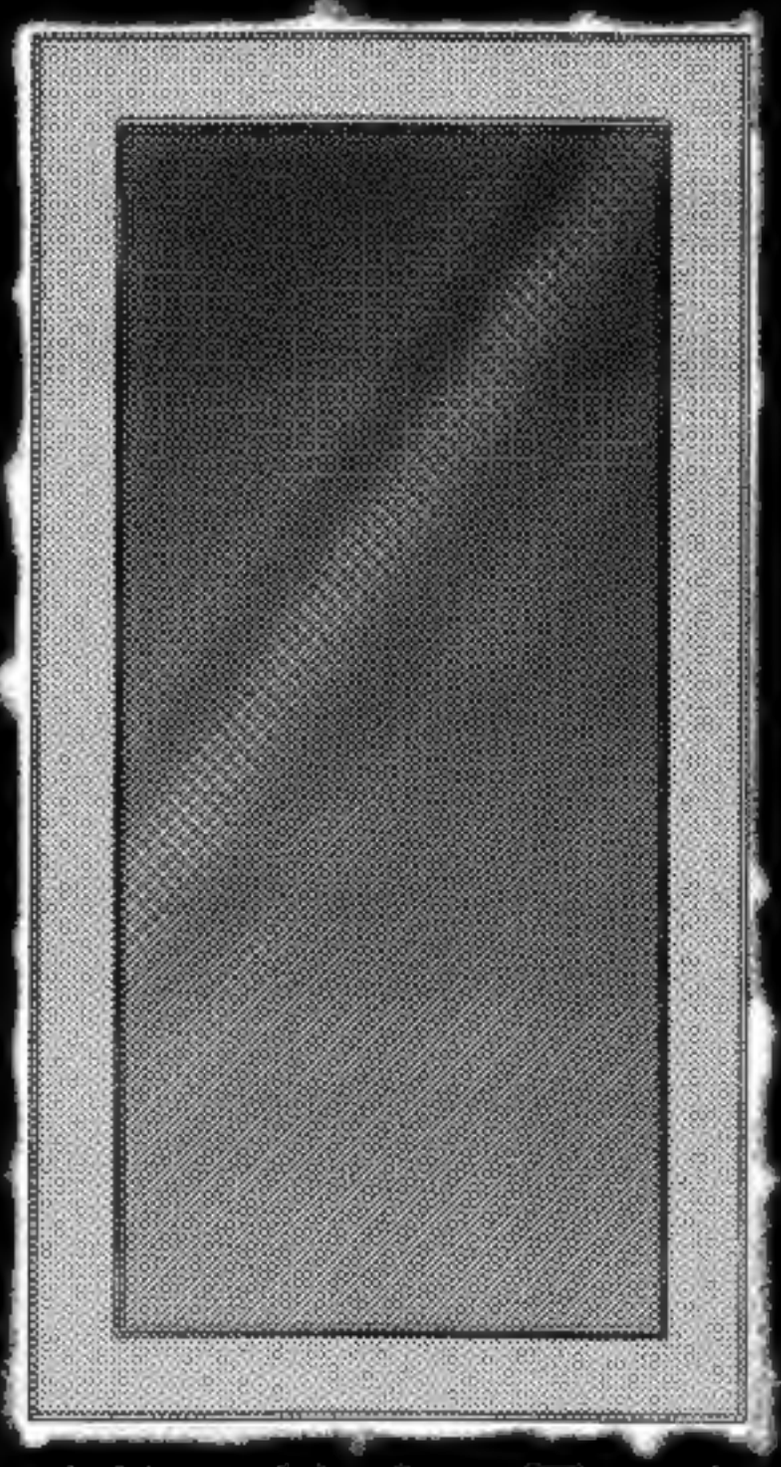
EVERY-THING'S FINE, ISN'T IT, HIROTA-SAN?

RIGHT? IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'VE BOLTED THE DOORS AFTER ALL.

YES. MOST RECENTLY, I'VE LOCKED THE SHUTTERS IN THE LIVING ROOM WITH YOU AND AUNTIE.

—MIR-RORED DOOR...

THAT MIRRORED DOOR WILL OPEN FROM OUTSIDE.



SASAKURA, WHO IS POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT, WILL SOON COME THROUGH THE MIRRORED DOOR...!?

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